

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Information Databases

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS:

A. Librarians' Index to the Internet (LII)

An advisory board for the LII has formed and held its first meeting on July 26, 2000. Participants on this board are:

- Holly Hinman, InFoPeople Project
- Carole Leita, LII Manager
- Gail Haar, Marin County Library
- Dana Evans, Sonoma County Library
- Martha Gifford, Ventura County Library Services Agency
- June Pilsitz, Newport Beach Public Library
- Joan Bartel, Los Angeles Public Library
- Julianna Hammond, San Diego County Library (community representative)
- Roy Tennant, California Digital Library
- Ira Bray, California State Library, representing the LoC Board

The advisory board discussed a variety of issues. In the coming year LII will offer a partnership opportunity for Library of California libraries. In addition to a “co-branding” service that enables the local library’s web page to frame the LII web site the LII will offer a link to that library via the LII web site. The LoC libraries that choose to utilize this service will be identified as LII “Partner” institutions.

LII staff will also explore enhancing the information available from the LII for the school community. Linking web site indexes and annotations to the state educational curriculum and standards was a method suggested for study.

The advisory board will meet again in January 2001. Communication will continue in the interim via email and phone.

B. Regional trial database projects

The trial database projects funded by the Regional Library Network grants are underway. Regional contacts report positive comments from participants. The Heartland region is working to develop a proposal for a trial database grant and has formed a committee to select a product and generate cost and participation information.

C. Arroyo Seco Cooperative Purchase Pilot

The Arroyo Seco Planning region has formed a steering committee to oversee the process for a full text cooperative licensing arrangement and will meet in August at UC Irvine to review a number of products. A consultant has been chosen and staff has discussed the current statewide environment with him.

D. Statewide Information Database Licensing

Staff has met with representatives from the Bibliographic Center for Research (BCR) and Amigos Library Services national regional library networks. Information from these meetings will be used to present alternatives for supporting cooperative purchase of database licenses.

The application for charter membership in the Golden Gateway Regional Network requested libraries to indicate the web based databases now available to users. Staff analyzed this information and has included a listing ranked by frequency of use (Exhibit A). The listing illustrates the diversity of databases in use and some indication of popular titles.

E. RAND California Trial Database Project

A survey of participants in the RAND California trial project is underway to analyze the impact of the trial program and to gather information relevant to future database licensing activities. The evaluation survey was delayed while negotiations for a cooperative purchase continued and many school participants are unavailable to contribute to the survey until September. Once all data has been collected a complete report will be presented for the November LoC Board meeting. At the present time over 130 surveys have been returned from 438 registrants for the trial project.

F. RAND California Cooperative Purchase

Information about cooperative purchase arrangements for the 2000–2001 fiscal year has been disseminated. Participants in the trial database project have a simplified enrollment process as data from their library has been retained. Staff have responded to inquiries from libraries about the availability of a cooperative purchase and questions about the agreement.

G. Library of California Periodicals/Serials Database

MyLibrary@CDL (available at <http://mylibrary.cdlib.org/>) is a prototype of a tool that will provide users of the California Digital Library (CDL), the host for the California Periodicals database, with the ability to organize frequently used information resources in a personally meaningful way. Users will be able to create

one-step pathways to frequently used resources and reference tools. In the future, MyLibrary may be able to support the ability to create, store and manage customized "update" searches within specified resources or subject areas, and activate CDL-hosted Databases Profiles. Staff will work with the CDL to coordinate the use of the California Periodicals database within this new service.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray